

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067613  
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S E C R E T STATE 067613

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3530 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, BEIRUT  
INFO DAMASCUS, CAIRO 15 MAR 78

QUOTE S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3530

EXDIS -- DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS NEA/IAI FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: WEIZMAN ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 3528

1. WEIZMAN CALLED ME A FEW MINUTES AGO. HE HAD JUST  
RETURNED TO THE MINISTRY FROM A QUICK TRIP TO SOUTH  
LEBANON FOR A FIRST HAND VIEW OF MILITARY OPERATIONS.

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2. HE SAID THINGS WERE GOING WELL. THE IDF HAD  
"KILLED QUITE A FEW PALESTINIANS BUT SOME OF THE BASTARDS  
HAD ESCAPED." THERE WERE SOME IDF CASUALTIES BUT HE  
DID NOT YET HAVE ANY FIRM FIGURES.

3. HE SAID THAT IF HE RETURNED TO TEL AVIV FROM TONIGHT'S  
SPECIAL CABINET MEETING AT A REASONABLE HOUR HE WOULD

LIKE TO TALK TO ME. OTHERWISE HE WANTED TO GET TOGETHER IN THE MORNING. I REPLIED THAT I WAS AT HIS DISPOSITION AT ANY TIME BECAUSE I TOO WANTED TO SEE HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I SAID I WAS BEGINNING TO HEAR RUMORS THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO KEEP FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON AFTER HIS MILITARY OPERATIONS WERE COMPLETED. THIS WAS DISTURBING NEWS FOR IT HAD IMPLICATIONS FAR BEYOND THE SECURITY PROBLEMS AFFECTING ISRAELIS NORTHERN FRONTIERS. I ADDED THAT I ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN WASHINGTON WAS FULLY APPRISED OF THE GOI'S INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO REMAINING IN SOUTH LEBANON.

3. WEIZMAN REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF "PLAYING GAMES" WITH THE U.S. WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS WERE AS FOLLOWS (AND HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD BECOME THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS FOLLOWING TONIGHT'S CABINET MEETING):

--AFTER MOUNTING SUCH A MAJOR OPERATION HE WANTED ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO REPEAT IT IN A FEW MONTH'S TIME.

--THESE ASSURANCES INCLUDED NO FATAH AND NO SA-IQA FORCES SOUTH OF THE LITANI.

--THESE ASSURANCES COULD BE IN THE FORM OF UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDINGS DELINEATING "RED LINES" BEYOND WHICH FORCES WOULD  
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NOT MOVE, SUCH AS THOSE ISRAEL HAD WITH JORDAN, SYRIA AND EGYPT.

--THE GOI WOULD ALSO WANT A CLEAR-CUT UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOL REGARDING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR KEEPING THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LITANI PURGED OF PALESTINIAN FORCES (THIS WAS NOT FURTHER SPELLED OUT IN OUR HURRIED PHONE CONVERSATION.).

4. WEIZMAN SAID THAT ONCE THESE UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED THE IDF WOULD WITHDRAW. BUT IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO EVERYONE INVOLVED THAT THE INSTANT THE PALESTINAINS TRIED TO ROCKET ANY OF ISRAEL'S NORTHERN SETTLEMENT OR TO INFILTRATE BACK INTO THE SAME AREAS, HE WOULD "PUNCH THEM INTO OBLIVION." HE WANTED US TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYBODY IS FED UP WITH THE ISTUATION IN THE NORTH. THE ISRAELIS HAD SHOWN GREAT PATIENCE AND FOREBEARANCE IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. IN THE PROCESS "A LOT OF ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN KILLED." THE TIME HAD COME TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION--PERMANENTLY.

5. WEIZMAN ASSURED ME THAT HE HAD INSISTED TO HIS TROOP COMMANDERS THAT AS FEW CIVILIANS AS

HUMANLY POSSIBLE SHOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE MILITARY OPERATIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT THUS FAR IN THE BORDER OPERATIONS VERY FEW CIVILIANS HAD BECOME INVOLVED SINCE MOST OF THEM HAD FLED NORTHWARDS BEFORE THE ATTACK STARTED. HE WAS LESS CERTAIN ABOUT THE AIR RAIDS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD LAID THE LAW DOWN TO THE IDF PILOTS THAT THERE WERE TO BE NO MORE EL AZIAS (THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP OBLITERATED BY THE ISRAELIS LAST FALL. ALL THE SAME, HE ADMITTED TO SOME DISQUIET THAT SOME INNOCENT CIVILIANS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE BOMB ATTACKS, ESPECIALLY THE ATTACK ON THE DOCKS SOUTH OF BEIRUT.

6. WEIZMAN SAID HE HAD JUST FLOWN BACK FROM NAQURA  
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WHERE THE SITUATION WAS QUIET. HE SAID THE LOCAL POPULATION DID NOT APPEAR TO BE DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY TO SEE ISRAELI TROOPS, "BUT NEITHER DID THEY RUN AWAY."

7. I TOLD WEIZMAN THAT BASED ON WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS, I THOUGHT IT ALL THE MORE NECESSARY FOR US TO HAVE A TALK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I REPEATED I WAS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR THE RETENTION OF ISRELI FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON. I ADDED THAT THEY WOULD BE THERE FOR A VERY LONG TIME, I THOUGHT, BEFORE HE EVER GOT THE SORTS OF ASSURANCES HE WAS ASKING FOR. HE PROMISED TO CALL ME AS SOON AS HE RETURNS TONIGHT FROM JERUSALEM.

8. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THIS CONVERSATION IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO THAVE YOUR VIEWS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE THIS EVENING ON HOW WE PLAY THIS SITUATION (SEE TEL AVIV 3528).  
VIETS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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